

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for manufacturing a solid polymer film and catalyst assembly with a catalyst deposited thereon for a fuel cell, the assembly comprising a solid polymer film and a catalyst deposited thereon made of a catalyst and a solid polymer film, the apparatus comprising:
  - a heater that preheats for preheating the solid polymer film thereby yielding a preheated solid polymer film;
  - a hot press machine for pressing together and heating a catalyst carrier substrate comprising a transfer substrate and a catalyst on one side thereof, and the preheated solid polymer film, that forms a joined member by heating and pressing at least one catalyst substrate carrying a catalyst on one side of a transfer substrate and the solid polymer film pre heated with the heater while the catalyst and the solid polymer film are in contact thereby forming a joined member;
  - a cooling machine that cools the at least one for cooling the catalyst carrier substrate from its transfer substrate side before the catalyst comes into contact with the pre-heated solid polymer film;
  - a separating machine that separates for separating the transfer substrate from the joined member thereby forming the assembly; and
  - a cooling machine that cools for cooling the joined member prior to separating the transfer substrate from the joined member.

2. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the hot press machine includes opposing pressing surfaces for pressing the joined member therebetween, and the pressing surface in contact with the catalyst carrier substrate is being maintained at a temperature lower than a temperature of the pressing surface in contact with the solid polymer film.

3. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the separating machine is adapted to separate ~~separates~~ the transfer substrate at an angle of substantially 180 degrees with respect the ~~integrated~~ joined member.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the heater and the hot press machine are integrated.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the joined member is such that the catalyst is joined to both sides of the solid polymer film.

7. (Currently amended) A method for manufacturing a solid polymer and catalyst ~~assembly film with a catalyst deposited thereon~~ for a fuel cell, the assembly comprising a solid polymer film and a catalyst deposited thereon ~~made of a catalyst and a solid polymer film~~, the method comprising:

preheating said solid polymer film;

~~precooling a catalyst carrier surface of at least one a catalyst carrier substrate carrying comprising a transfer substrate and a catalyst on one side thereof from a transfer substrate side of the catalyst carrier substrate;~~

contacting the catalyst carrier surface with the preheated solid polymer film;

forming a joined member by ~~heating and pressing~~ pressing together and heating the catalyst carrier substrate and the solid polymer film; and

separating the transfer substrate from the joined member thereby forming the assembly;

and

cooling the joined member prior to separating the transfer substrate from the joined member.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein ~~in the~~ forming a joined member step comprises using opposing pressing surfaces, ~~the heating and pressing is performed by opposing pressing surfaces and the pressing surface in contact with the catalyst carrier substrate is being~~ maintained at a temperature lower than a temperature of the pressing surface in contact with the solid polymer film.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 7, wherein, during separating, the angle between the transfer substrate and the solid polymer film becomes substantially 180 degrees.

PATENT  
Serial No.: 09/758,241  
Attorney Docket: 10517/76

10. (Canceled).